

has provided quality education and guidance to Guam's young women. As a result, the school's alumnae have made substantial contributions toward the transformation of Guam from an island ravaged by war in the forties to its present status as a political and economic center in the Western Pacific. I am confident that this institution of faith and learning will continue its commitment to excellence by providing a valuable educational opportunity to the young women of Guam.

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
BILL PETERSON, MINNESOTA
AFL-CIO SECRETARY-TREASURER**

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues attention the retirement of an individual who has committed his life as a tireless advocate for working men and women in Minnesota and our nation, Bill Peterson. Mr. Peterson has announced that he will retire from his nine years of service as the Minnesota AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer. Before that, Bill served as the Executive Secretary of the Minnesota Building Trades and business representative to the Iron Workers Local 512.

I have had the privilege of knowing Bill Peterson since his days as a "hand" on the job. In fact, he has had the benefit of working and associating with all of the Vento Boys (Dan, Frank, Kurt and myself) since he first started on his journey of the building trades leadership. He began as an Ironworker Business Representative, followed as the MN Building Trades Executive Secretary and eventually was elected to serve as the AFL-CIO Minnesota State Federation Secretary-Treasurer.

During his many years of service, Bill Peterson has worked to improve the quality of life for working families. His effectiveness during tough times as a spokesman for the Minnesota AFL-CIO has greatly benefited working people and educated more than one legislator. Under Bill Peterson, there have been great strides in the development of worker pension programs, the availability of year-round work for members of the building trades, the State Davis-Bacon law, the State Apprenticeship Council, and Union Labor Project contract agreements. Today and tomorrow, worker's conditions and wages will continue to evolve on the basis of the foundation established by building trade labor leaders like Bill Peterson.

There have also been some very tough events during Bill's tenure. One vivid event I'll always recall is when the tower antenna went down in Shoreview and iron workers lost their lives. While we grieved over their deaths, we also resolved not to let this accident go unnoticed. As a result, when Minnesota joined in the establishment of a worker's memorial day, it is events like this that are remembered. The Minnesota Building Trades have also been leaders for tough Occupational Health and Safety Act enforcement, with Bill Peterson in the forefront leading the fight for on the job safety and health.

Bill Peterson will best be remembered for his commitment to education and to the chil-

dren of working men and women. When the federal commitment to State Apprenticeship programs was under attack, Bill Peterson rallied Congressional and national labor to keep this important training program in place. As a key elected state-wide Member of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, Bill has been a strong voice for working families, advocating forcefully to keep a college education as a financially viable option for the children of working families and for working men and women seeking new careers.

In addition to his professional activities, Bill has been a volunteer extraordinaire, donating his time and talents for my benefit and that of many others. It is in that role that I will always remember Bill. While many will remember him working the halls of the State Capitol or speaking at the State AFL-CIO convention, I will always picture Bill in an apron carrying a pot of Minnesota corn at the annual Vento Corn Feed for 25 years.

Despite the health challenges that have been a part of his life from youth, Bill has done much more than his share as a professional and a volunteer. His life's work provides labor brothers and sisters the shoulders to stand upon as today's and tomorrow's Minnesota Union movement and views move into the future.

Bill Peterson is truly an example of those whose successful leadership has positively promoted rights for the workers and workers families in our community. We are all richer for his advocacy, his hard work and most importantly, his friendship. I, as many throughout the labor-political sphere, deeply appreciate his friendship, support and counsel through the years.

All my best to Bill and also to his family, who have provided support through the years: his wife Lolly, their three children and grandchildren. It is with heartfelt thanks that I wish Bill Peterson the best of health and a well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO OTTO McMATH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of the most committed, most dedicated and most courageous public interest advocates this country has ever known, Mr. Otto McMath.

Whereas, the Almighty God has called to his eternal rest, my friend and neighbor, Mr. Otto McMath; and whereas, for more than twenty years, Mr. Otto McMath was an integral part of the staying power of the South Austin Coalition Community Council; and whereas, the South Austin Coalition Community Council, is one of the most effective organizations of its kind; and whereas, Otto McMath and his neighbors have been instrumental in developing, promoting, and generating funds for the Low Energy Assistance Program, fighting back against redlining and other forms of economic discrimination and in developing community policing and neighborhood safety programs. As a member of SACCC, Mr. McMath's acts of heroism are legendary. He was never a limelighter; but could always be counted upon to rise to the occasion when the need presented itself.

Mr. McMath had a serious understanding of community interest and functioned with a high level of principle. He was never one to go along to get along or to make decisions on the basis of individual self interest or expediency. He was a true warrior, a true soldier and a true hero for the people.

I thank you Otto McMath. You knew how to live and you have died with dignity.

**SPANISH PARKS WILDERNESS ACT
OF 1999**

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 898 to designate certain land in the San Isabel National Forest in the State of Colorado as the "Spanish Peaks Wilderness". I believe wilderness designation for the Spanish Peaks is a critical first step toward preserving the unique, pristine wild lands in Colorado. In the last Congress, I cosponsored legislation introduced by Representative David Skaggs and cosponsored by Representative McINNIS which would have protected Spanish Peaks as wilderness.

This year's version is a good bill, but it contains a change which causes great concern. Unfortunately, a new provision in the bill allows the Forest Service to continue to permit motorized access to an off-road segment of the Wahatoya trailhead. This provision is both unnecessary and environmentally damaging. I hope the legislation will be amended to prevent such motorized use in this off-road segment.

With the introduction of H.R. 829, the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1999, and H.R. 898, I am heartened that we are having an active and thoughtful debate on wilderness. The majority of Coloradans believe that we must protect the forty-nine areas designated in my legislation as well as the Spanish Peaks. These areas constitute the backbone of our state's beauty and are essential in preserving our quality of life.

I commend my colleague for recognizing the importance of preserving lands like the Spanish Peaks Wilderness.

**MARKING THE DAY THAT
NGAWANG CHOEPHEL WAS DE-
TAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF CHINA IN 1995**

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the day the Ngawang Choephel, a Tibetan musicology student at Middlebury College in Vermont, was detained by the Government of China four years ago. Ngawang Choephel studied musicology at Middlebury College on a Fulbright scholarship, and he was reported missing in 1995 while researching folk music in Tibet as part of his studies. It was more than a year before the Government of China acknowledged his arrest and imprisonment.